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University of Montana

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MEDIA RELEASE

August 26, 1988

UM REPS TO VISIT HARDIN SEPT. 8

MISSOULA --

University of Montana President James Koch and more than 30 UM representatives will visit Hardin Thursday, Sept. 8, as part of a Sept. 6-9 bus trip to southeastern Montana.

A major purpose of the tour, which will also take in Billings, Miles City and Colstrip, is to build support for Referendum 106. That measure would renew the six-mill levy that funds the Montana University System. Other goals include making Hardin residents more familiar with UM and strengthening ties with alumni and business people.

In addition, the four-day trip coincides with the testing of UM's satellite uplink with Eastern Montana College in Billings, where the University will begin offering a master's degree in business administration this fall.

Accompanying Koch on the tour will be UM faculty and staff members, administrators, students and alumni. Among them will be the deans of the business, pharmacy, fine arts, education, forestry and journalism schools; admissions and financial aid directors; alumnus and Referendum 106 advocate Hal G. Stearns; past UM Alumni Association president Dan Marinkovich; and student government President Jennifer Isern.

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Hardin.rl --2

Also participating will be Dave Calahan, president of First Interstate Bank-Missoula. The First Interstate BancSystem of Montana has provided more than half the funding for the trip, with the remaining portion coming from private donations, says UM Vice President for University Relations Sheila Stearns.

Koch and a number of faculty members plan to visit Hardin High School, where UM admissions Director Mike Akin and financial aid Director Mick Hanson will talk to school officials about University System admission standards and financial aid.

Members of the group also plan to meet with professionals in their fields. For example, pharmacy Dean David Forbes will talk to local pharmacists.

Other activities will include get-togethers with alumni and friends of UM and a 4 p.m. **press conference** for all local media in the conference room at First Interstate Bank-Hardin.

On Sept. 8, President Koch and some faculty members and administrators will also visit Colstrip High School. Some UM representatives will take a Montana Power Co. tour as well.

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